

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on July 5, 2006. Applicants note that the Office Action did not take the revisions from the international stage into account. The claims listing includes these revisions, i.e. the addition of claims 2-7. Figures 3 and 4 have been corrected to include the label "Prior Art" as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 1 and 2 have been currently amended. Claim 1 is amended to further clarify elements recited in the claim and are supported, for example, in the specification on page 6, lines 7-16 page 11; page 8, lines 23-30; and page 10, lines 24-29. Claim 2 is amended to track with amended claim 1. No new matter has been added. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-7 remain pending.

§112 Rejection:

Claim 1 was rejected as being indefinite. Claim 1 is currently amended to further clarify how the main filter of the filter device is controlled and what functions it performs. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is definite and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Conclusion:

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-7. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 455-3804.

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By: 

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IN THE DRAWINGS

The drawings are amended to correct informalities. Particularly, a Replacement Sheet of Figures 3 and 4 are submitted herewith so as to be designated as prior art. No new matter is added.